Rotary Club of San Antonio

Peace Initiatives Committee

(Formerly the International Services Committee)

Dec 2025 - Feb 28, 2026

Update #10

International Virtual Social

8:30 am, March 27, 2026, with **Madras East, India**. More details to come.

Zoom link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88440881189?pwd=kK5uwdo7V8WbydoI2slrAyUr4MNnvz.1

Meeting ID: 884 4088 1189. Passcode: 131922.

Organizer: Sherry Dowlatshahi.

RCSA Members honored as 2026 San Antonio's Peace Laureates

On March 1, 2026, at Northwest Vista College, the annual Blessing of the Peacemakers honored leaders and organizations working to strengthen peace in San Antonio. The **Rotary Club of San Antonio** was recognized as a 2026 San Antonio Peace Laureate for its leadership in international peacebuilding through Seeds of Hope (Northern Ireland) and Nurturing Hope (San Antonio and Northern Ireland). Individual recognition was given to **Jack McGuire** for his co-founding of—and sustained commitment to—the International Peace Leadership Academy (Seeds of Hope, Northern Ireland) initiative.



International Youth Peace Summit -- The Hague, Netherlands (June 2026)

Our partners at the Hague Rotary Club are collaborators in the Peace Leadership Academy in Northern Ireland and the Nurturing Hope Peace Learning Journey we launched in 2022. *Now they have taken the model further;* they created the **International Youth Peace Summit** structured like a United Nations session, where students engage in civil discourse to address real-world problems confronting peace.

RCSA, area universities, and the San Antonio Peace Center are exploring how to adapt this model to San Antonio. To move that forward, **President Kelley Frost** and I will likely attend the summit June 17-19 in The Hague, not as spectators, but as students of the process to assess what works, what scales, and what we can bring home.

Link to Peace Summit: https://www.youthpeacesummit.com/



Photo of 2025 Youth Peace Summitt attendees.

Committee Update: A New Name, A Clearer Mission

Our International Services Committee now carries a new name: *Peace Initiatives Committee*.

Rotary International and our District are aligning club committees more closely with Rotary's Peace *Areas of Focus*. The new name reflects that intent.

District Launches Peace Initiatives Committee

Globally, only a few Rotary districts have a standing committee dedicated solely to advancing peace. DG Craig Hardy will lead our district to be one of them. On May 1, 2026, at the District Peace Conference, DG Hardy will formally launch its Peace Initiatives Committee.

The District has asked our club to help design and stand up this inaugural effort. This is both an honor and a responsibility. We will help shape its structure, define its priorities, and guide the expansion of peace-centered programming across our district's 50+ clubs.

This committee will be built for action. It will strengthen existing projects, launch new ones, and align district resources behind measurable peacebuilding locally and internationally.

Seeds of Hope Intl. Peace Leadership Academy

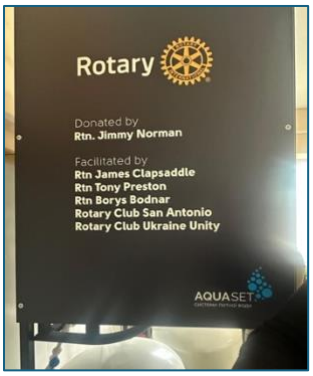


- **Web Site:** Thank you **Mark Figart** for creating the new Seeds of Hope web site. See it here: **https://www.seedsofhope.academy/.**

  The Seeds of Hope project was created through a partnership of the Rotary Club of San Antonio, clubs in Ireland and Netherlands, Irish Universities, and the Corrymeela Community in Northern Ireland.

- **$20,000 AAA Scholarship**. The American Arbitration Association has awarded 10 of our Seeds of Hope Academy students with scholarships of $2000 each. The scholarships are intended to "promote hands-on learning in reconciliation and dialogue within a post-conflict society and to develop young leaders who understand negotiation, restorative practices, and civil discourse."

Ukraine Humanitarian Aid Missions





Water Purification at Ukrainian School

Thank you to **Jimmy Norman** for stepping forward to fund a large-scale water purification system at Yasinia Secondary School. Because of his generosity, students, many displaced by war, now have access to clean, safe water every day.

Yasinia has become a place of refuge. As families arrived, the strain on local resources was real. This project answers that challenge. It safeguards children's and strengthens the school's capacity.

Our Rotary club has joined forces with clubs in the UK, Wales, and Ukraine to install 27 water filtration systems in schools and medical facilities so far. Most are in eastern regions where Russian attacks have shattered public utilities like water treatment, sewage, electricity.

The need is widespread. We have chosen to concentrate on schools and medical centers because that is where stability begins again. This is practical work. It is measurable. And it is making a wonderful difference where it matters most.

Thank you, Jimmy!

March Humanitarian Aid Convoy (Mission #60)

Our next convoy rolls out of Dover on March 6. **Mark Figart joins us *again* as vehicle donor, fundraiser, and driver.** We'll depart Dover, England, ferry to France, then drive through France, Belgium, Germany, and Ukraine. A journey of 1,420 miles. The same as driving from the Alamo to Washington DC.

This mission we will transport:
- 1 full-sized ambulance
- 2 generators
- 8 vehicles to be converted into tactical field ambulances
- **300 pounds of donated infant formula and diapers!**
- **$72,000 in purchased and donated med supplies!**





About our Vehicles: Seven of the 9 vehicles we will transport are either Nissan Navarras (top right) or Mitsubishi Warrior L200s (middle right). We buy used 4x4s like these vehicles that we find in and around London and in the south of England.

They are often dented and rather banged up but in very good drivable condition. We find them for sale in common sources like Facebook Market place or local sant ads. We inspect them.

If they are in good shape, we buy them inexpensively--often times $2K-$3K. Then convoy them into Ukraine. Transportation costs are about $500 a vehicle: gas for 1400 miles, insurance, tolls, ferry charges, occasional breakdowns and repairs. Once we cross into Ukraine, we have skilled workers who modify them to become frontline ambulances and aid vehicles.



Vehicle Usage: On average, a full-sized ambulance will carry 37 wounded civilians and soldiers a month from aid tents to fixed/hardened hospitals. They work mostly behind the front lines out of reach of most drone attacks.

The converted 4x4 patient retrieval vehicles will carry upwards of 60 people a month. They operate in the front lines and often come under direct attack. They are workhorses and take a lot of punishment. And they are truly life-savers.

Sometimes we find vehicles that are already configured as medical response vehicles, like the one pictured above with me and Mark Figart (March 2025 mission). When we find these, we need only paint them and black-out the windows to make them front-line ready.

Donors who have contributed to a vehicle KNOW they have saved a life. Usually many.

Vehicles Placed Thus Far:

65: Our Rotary and our partners (both private donors and other rotaries) have placed 65 vehicles into service.

400: In total, we and our Rotary partners in the UK with whom we convoy have placed nearly 400 vehicles into action.

Thank you to **Jack McGuire** who is a significant funder of the March mission and our upcoming May convoy.

Thank you to our 2025
Ukraine Humanitarian Aid Mission Donors

Anthony, Mark
Bell, Vanette
Betz, Gregg
Blank, Charles
Buchanan, Bob
Castro, Rachel
Christie, John
Clapsaddle, Connie
Clapsaddle, JC
Cook, Elizabeth
Cossman, Lynne
Dailey, Dan
Darling, Bizzy
Darling, Steve
Dowlatshahi, Sherry
Figart, Claudia
Figart, Kay
Figart, Mark
Figart, Sharon
Fleuriet, Edwin
Flores, Silvia
Frost, Kelley
Galik, Richard
Hall, Susan
Hamilton, Bob
Howard, Ryland
Hunt, Marsha
Ignatowicz, Robin
Isaacson, Ward
Isaacson, Kathy
Judd, Nora
Kelly, Amy
Kelly, Charles
Kloote, Pamela
Lane Mitchell
Lapointe, Tim
Lipton, Barry
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Norman, James
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RC Monmouth (Wales)
RC Hereford (UK)
RC The Hague (Netherlands)
RC Mason City, IA
RC Mission Trails, TX
RC River City, IA
RC San Antonio, TX
Salazar, Leticia
Sherman, Bob
Shivers, Nancy
Simons, Elaine
Stanford, Kristi
StayWithUkraine.Org
- (50+ vehicles!)
Stefan, Karny
Stover, Peter
Strong, Nathan
Swift, Anne
Swift, Clint
Tessmer, Heather
Urshan, Cindy
Van de Putte, Nichole
Wally, John
Wally, Rita
Wendt, John
Westwood Village RC
Wiechmann, David
Wigodsky, Dan
Wondolkowski, Georgette
Worden, Trip

Yours in Service,
JC Clapsaddle
Peace Initiatives Committee
210-557-0583
Acta Non Verba
Action, not Words